

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

COUNTRY	USSR (Latvian SSR)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Bridge Construction in Riga	DATE DISTR.	23 August 1955 25X1
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. Shortly after World War II, the Soviets built the new Valdemar Bridge over the Daugava River in Riga. This bridge was constructed very narrow and very high to permit large ocean-going vessels to pass underneath it. However, the bridge proved to be too narrow for two streetcars to pass and, as a result, the engineer was rumored to have been arrested for sabotage and sentenced to 25 years at hard labor. 25X1

2. A new concrete bridge across the Daugava River in Riga was begun in spring 1954. By spring 1955, the abutments on both shores as well as three stanchions had been completed. This new bridge is being constructed on the upstream side of and immediately alongside the old pontoon bridge. It is anticipated that this new bridge will do away with the necessity for the old pontoon bridge. Temporary quarters for workers and the office have been constructed near the abutment on the right bank of the river, while tool sheds and a large crane are located on the left bank. 25X1

3. All bridges in Riga are patrolled. Four members of the militia guarding the pontoon bridge. One guard patrolled along the side of the bridge to the center and back again. No one is permitted to stop on the bridge; however, pedestrians may use the bridge, at least during the daytime. 25X1

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